

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.
Secretary

GREGORY C. WATSON
Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities. The following municipalities are advised that the MassDOT Department proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in these municipalities:

District 1: Becket Blandford Lee Otis Russell Stockbridge West Stockbridge

District 2: Agawam Bernardston Brimfield Chicopee Deerfield Easthampton Greenfield Hatfield Holyoke Longmeadow Ludlow Northampton Palmer Springfield Warren West Springfield Westfield Whately Wilbraham

District 3: Acton Boxborough Fitchburg Framingham Gardner Harvard Lancaster Leominster Littleton Marlboro Millbury Natick Northborough Shrewsbury Southborough Sutton Westborough Westminster Worcester

District 4: Andover Beverly Burlington Chelmsford Danvers Haverhill Lawrence Lexington Lowell Lynnfield Malden Medford Methuen North Andover Peabody Reading Revere Saugus Somerville Stoneham Tewksbury Wakefield Waltham Wilmington Winchester Woburn

District 5: Attleboro Avon Berkley Bridgewater Brockton Duxbury Foxboro Freetown Hanover Hingham Kingston Mansfield Marshfield Middleborough N. Attleboro Norton Norwell Norwood Pembroke Plymouth Raynham Rochester Rockland Sharon Stoughton Taunton Walpole Wareham West Bridgewater

District 6: Boston Braintree Brookline Chelsea Canton Dedham Milton Needham Newton Quincy Randolph Westwood Weymouth Wellesley

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct regional hearings to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the Massachusetts Highway Department as submitted by the MassDOT Department, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, public hearings will be held at the following locations:

Wednesday, March 12, 2014: MassHighway District 3 Headquarters, 403 Belmont Street, Worcester, Small Conference Room, 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014: MassHighway District 2 Headquarters, 811 North King Street, Northampton, Room 120, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Friday, March 14, 2014: UMASS Eastern Extension Center-Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, Conference Room, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Plans Available for Public Review Prior to Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the Row Management Regulations provide: “At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request.” Such request should be made to:

Mr. George Batchelor
Supervisor of Landscape Design
MassDOT Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Bureau, during regular business hours. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Boston Public Library: 700 Boylston Street, Boston
Worcester Public Library: 3 Salem Square, Worcester
Northampton Forbes Library: 20 West Street, Northampton

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Massachusetts Highway Department’s VMP until the close of business: **Friday, April 11, 2014.**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151